United Nations PBC/3/GNB/6

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 June 2009

Original: English

Peacebuilding Commission
Third session
Guinea-Bissau configuration

Statement by the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission

1. On behalf of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, I join the Security Council, the Secretary-General, the African Union, the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries in strongly condemning the recent killing of Baciro Dabó, a candidate in the upcoming presidential elections, as well as Helder Proença, a former Minister of Defence, and two of his bodyguards. Such deplorable incidents bear a very negative impact on and pose considerable challenges to the peacebuilding process in Guinea-Bissau.

2. In the light of such incidents, the Security Council called on the international community to work closely with the Government of Guinea-Bissau. To advance and to consolidate peace in the country, it is vital that parties, the armed forces and people of Guinea-Bissau uphold democratic governance, the rule of law and the Constitution, and bring to justice those responsible for these violent acts. In this respect, the Guinea-Bissau configuration notes the importance of the decision by Raimundo Pereira, the interim President of the country, following consultations with relevant national stakeholders, to hold the presidential election, as scheduled, on 28 June 2009. The Guinea-Bissau configuration will continue to provide support for the electoral process.

3. A free, fair and transparent election will pave the way for a comprehensive national dialogue and reconciliation. The Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission stands ready to support such constructive efforts in order to help consolidate peace in the country.

09-37136 (E) 190609

Please recycle

4. I reiterate the Guinea-Bissau configuration members' overall support to Guinea-Bissau and the continued willingness of the Guinea-Bissau configuration to work with all stakeholders to ensure that the priorities set out in the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding, in particular the reform of the security and defence sectors, are effectively implemented. In my next briefing to the Security Council, I intend to address the current and future engagement of the Guinea-Bissau configuration with the country in order to continue to assist Guinea-Bissau in overcoming its challenges.